



February 27, 2023  
Jordan DeAngelo  
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District 1199 New England  
Before the Finance Committee

**In Support of HB 5673 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN TAXES AND TAX EQUITY**

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and members of the committee. My name is Jordan DeAngelo. I am a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) living and working in Winsted, CT, and I care for my mother. I'm here today to testify in support of House Bill 5673.

Caring for others has always been a part of my life. As a teenager I cared for my grandmother, and so when it became obvious that my mother would benefit from a personal care attendant I stepped up. I enjoy caring for my mom. It makes me happy to know I am able to allow her to continue living in her home and do so comfortably. That said, the fact that I am caring for my mother doesn't make it any easier. In fact, it is even harder because there is an emotional tax to watching a loved one struggle, and even though I am only paid for 40 hours a week, I am essentially working 24/7 to care for my mom.

Home care workers in Connecticut are professional caregivers. The work we do allows people to receive critical care while remaining in their own homes. We don't just clean their homes or help them in and out of bed, we help them socialize and continue to do the things they love. We care about our consumers; they are human beings and deserve to live normal lives. It saddens me deeply that we work so hard to provide a dignified life for our consumers, yet we are treated with utter disregard by the society we live in. I constantly feel emotionally strained and burned out. We deserve much higher wages for the work that we do. We deserve paid sick leave benefits, a pension plan, or at least a 401K.

At 29, I have not had health insurance in almost a decade. I have needed glasses since 2013, but simply cannot afford them. I was born with heart arrhythmia, which means my heart will skip beats. When I was 23, I suffered a heart attack and was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. The ambulance ride was \$1,000 and I am still paying it off to this day. Additionally, the doctor at the hospital urged me to see a cardiologist, but I didn't because I could not afford it. Even routine, preventative measures are out of the

question for me. It has been so long since I've been to the dentist that I don't even remember my last cleaning.

Both PCAs and the consumers we care for deserve better. Please pass House Bill 5673 so that PCA's can earn the wages and receive the benefits we deserve. Thank you for your time.